

EMAW Testimonials

Collection for Inspiration

EMAW in Michigan



“Transformed - God chose Phil and he obeyed”

Phil was a former owner of a Christmas tree farm in Michigan. He was known as a gruff, highly opinionated, and angry man within the community and his church family. In spite of this, the pastor of his church approached him to participate at his table of men to undertake *Every Man A Warrior*. Phil was somewhat reluctant, but decided to give it a go and joined the pastor’s group of men.

For the first 6 weeks, Phil was very unconvinced about *Every Man A Warrior* and would frequently share his belief that this may not be for him and that leaving the group was a strong possibility. However, the pastor regularly encouraged and challenged him to stay with it a bit longer.

Needless to say, Phil’s Quiet Times reflected the level of his dedication. They were succinct and did not show much heart.

Over time, Phil began to share Quiet Times that unveiled, to the men, a gradual transformation taking place in his heart. They were deeper, longer, more heartfelt. Being more introspective, He shared with the men that he could no longer dedicate 10-15 minutes, but found himself immersed in the Word from one to two hours. His Quiet Times became irresistible revelations of change occurring in Phil’s heart and mind to the men around the table.

People in the church began to see the change and it was not uncommon to hear someone say, “Who is this, and what have you done with Phil?” He became softer, showing more compassion for others.

Deb, a significant member of the church family, was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer. This came as an emotional blow to the members of the congregation. Phil took the initiative and called the pastor, emphatically suggesting that the church members come together and pray for Deb, her husband and family. The pastor said that could easily be arranged at the church. Phil was insistent that it needed to be more than just a gathering at the church; it had to be something more compelling. His vision was an outdoor prayer gathering. He went on to describe the turnout as members of the church, and anyone from the community, arriving at Deb’s

home, circling the house in prayer, and kneeling and worshipping God for the purpose of releasing Deb from this cancer and to provide comfort and His peace in the lives of her family. The pastor was utterly surprised at Phil's compassion and zeal. Without hesitation he asked if Phil would take charge of this prayer gathering and Phil immediately agreed.

The prayer gathering at Deb's home was on a cold day in January. A steady icy rain was coming down as over 100 people had arrived to circle the home several times and then to kneel on cardboard squares all cut and provided by Phil. The pastor saw Deb and her husband looking through their living room window, weeping over what they were witnessing.

God chose Phil and, as only a transformed man can do, he obeyed. Consequently, lives that went beyond his were experiencing the glory of God in a mighty way. Through the influence of the Holy Spirit working in Phil, he became a divinely empowered instrument to impact today's culture; a far cry from that gruff, highly opinionated and angry man that came to the first week of *Every Man A Warrior*.